

In the last few years we have seen several discussions on the role of technology innovation for the country, its working mechanisms and above all the reasons why innovation is so difficult to happen in real life, whether in the industry or in other environments and, therefore, in the Brazilian culture. Sometimes we can be bold enough to delineate parallels between what happens in the management of companies which aim at making innovation occur and, therefore, achieve sustained differential, and what happens to other areas of our daily lives, for example, arts and even the taste for refinement. Most of the social or personal 'refinements' are the result of tireless efforts, and can be explained by Kant's synthetic judgement, and are an unmistakable product of experimentation.

Bossa Nova may seem a bit "out of tune", alluding to the work of Tom Jobim and Newton Mendonça, but to a prepared ear, open to experiments, it represents a great openness to experimentation, to the unusual coupled to refinement. In the industry context, similar situations may occur, when we come upon minds opened to creation and to innovation, but which require openness to experimentation in order to be able to generate a significant competitive advantage.

Unfortunately, to a great extent of the industry sector, creative people are normally seen as "off tune chords". Their questionings are rejected, since they seem to be originated from illusions. Their ideas do not sound consonant, for they cause discomfort to traditional ears. Progress are denied to them, because they do not have the alleged required profile. It is still not clear to us the complexity of the human thought and, therefore, we are still not prepared to deal with the most current problems, which are increasingly acquiring an interdisciplinary, complex character, where areas of knowledge merge, creating problems which require unknown solutions and must be addressed in a non-automated way.

Perhaps it is time to review our concepts, to question the management patterns and methods which accompany us ever since the time when work meant to be physically present or to perform an activity whose effectiveness could be measured by its runtime. Perhaps it is time to change the way we think in order to transform our great creative potential into benefits for society.

This issue brings only three papers. Once again, the work of the scientific committee shows a rigorous evaluation process, motivated by the aim of contributing to the quality of the papers and hence the periodic.

The first paper selects the four largest power distribution companies in Brazil and makes a qualitative analysis on the binomial price reduction and economic-financial balance, coming to the conclusion that tariffs have become fairer to the consumer and the remuneration of corporate investment is adequate. The second paper addresses the usage of fossil fuels and their gradual replacement by types of fuel which bring less impact on aspects related to the environment. The work explores hydrogen as an energy vector and the fuel cell as conversion system, and the impact of their use on society. The third and last paper addresses the R&D programme of ANEEL (National Agency for Electrical Energy) in its new methodology, which assigns the responsibility for assessing the scientific merit of the projects to the proposing companies. As a step to mitigate risks inherent to this new model, the paper explores the practice of forming groups to aid the evaluation and selection process through the establishment of two groups, one for strategic purposes and another responsible for the scientific aspect of R&D projects.

The editorial board of Espaço Energia appreciate the constant support of its readers, collaborators and sponsors and hope that this issue is of great value to all.